

What should you know about labour & social rights?

- The employment contract shall in minimum include the description of your duties, workplace, working hours and salary amount. The contract often refers to the collective agreement concluded between the employers' association and the trade union;
- There is no legally unified minimum wage in Belgium, however minimum wages are offered in all sectors via the collective labour agreements (e.g. the minimum gross salary for a person of 21 and older, without working experience is EUR 1.472,40 a month);
- The legally established working week is 38 hours;
- Every worker is entitled to annual leave.
Its minimum duration per year is 20 days (in case of 5-day working week) or 24 days (in case of 6-day working week);
- The social security system of Belgium consists of unemployment, health, family allowances, pension and work accident insurance and is financed through a combination of employer and employee contributions. The registration to the Social Security System has to be done by your employer. Some of these rights are tightly linked with the right to reside in Belgium (more information available on: www.coming2belgium.be);
- To be entitled to receive any unemployment benefit you need to prove certain period of work in Belgium prior such application (depends on the age category, but the minimum is 312 days in last 18 months);
Health insurance is obligatory. You can choose which of the public health insurance funds you want to be registered with. More information on labour rights on: <http://www.employment.belgium.be/home.aspx>

Useful contacts in Belgium:

Immigration Office

WTC II, Antwerpsesteenweg 59b, 1000 Brussels
www.dofi.fgov.be

Federal Public Service Employment, Labour and Social Dialogue, Immigration Unit

Ernest Blerotstraat 1, 1070 Brussels

Regional labour migration offices (work permits):

Federation of Belgian Enterprises

Ravensteinstraat 4, 1000 Brussels
Tel: +32 2 515 08 11
<http://www.vbo-feb.be/index.html?page=2&lang=en>

ADDE (NGO, assistance for migrants)

Rue du Boulet n 22, 1000 Brussels
Tel. 02 227 42 42
Email: info@adde.be, http://www.adde.be/J_15/

International Organization for Migration

Rue Montoyer 40, 1000 Brussels
Tel. +32 2 287 70 00, Email: robrussels@iom.int
<http://www.belgium.iom.int/>

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Targeted Initiative for Georgia (TIG) "Support reintegration of Georgian returning migrants and the implementation of EU – Georgia readmission agreement" is a 3 years project implemented in the framework of the Mobility Partnership concluded between Georgia and the European Union in 2009. The project is being implemented by a Consortium of 9 EU Member States (Belgium, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Italy, The Netherlands, Poland, Romania and Sweden) under the lead of the Ministry of Interior of the Czech Republic and in cooperation with the International Organization for Migration.

More information about the project can be found on www.informedmigration.ge
or by contacting us:
E-mail: tig@tig-eu.ge;
Tel: (+995 32) 2600 955

EU-GEORGIA “MOBILITY PARTNERSHIP”



LABOUR MIGRATION TO BELGIUM



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Targeted
Initiative
Georgia

Are you interested in working in Belgium?

This leaflet provides you with general guidance on how to obtain a work and residence permit and gives you brief overview of work related rights and useful contacts to search for additional information or assistance if needed.

STEPS to be followed:?

1. Check the list of occupations/professions you are allowed to work in.
2. Secure a job offer from an employer in Belgium.
3. Apply for a long term visa (after labour authorization and work permit is issued).
4. Get registered at the municipal authority of your residence and apply for a residence permit.

There is no agreement on bilateral labor migration between Georgia and Belgium therefore Georgian citizens are not eligible to work in all types of occupations/professions. Still there are a number of professions/ occupations where neither this pre-condition nor the rule of priority given to the Belgian or other EU citizens applies. In the below listed professions the citizens of Georgia can apply for a job:

- highly qualified employees or executives
- researchers and visiting professors
- trainees (aged 18-30)
- au pairs (aged under 26)
- professional sportsmen and their coaches
- performing artists
- spouses and children of labour migrants with a temporary work permit
- employees with a key position in a foreign air company or tourist industry

For more information please check:

<http://brussels.irisnet.be/working-and-doing-business/doing-business-in-brussels/working-and-doing-business/working/working-as-a-foreign-national/type-b-work-permit-and-employment-permit#special-categories>

Where to look for information on job opportunities?

- www.ec.europa.eu/eures
- Online job portals: <http://www.brusselsjobs.com/>
<http://www.eurobrussels.com/>
<http://www.jobsinbrussels.com/>
<http://www.vacature.com>

Schemes for highly qualified employees:

1. National scheme (work permit B):

- requirements: possession of a degree of higher education (successful completion of higher education of at least 3 years) and minimum annual gross salary of EUR 37.721
- the permit is annually renewable (max. 8 years: 2 times for 4 years). If the salary exceeds EUR **62.934** annually, no time limitations are set.

2. Blue Card (scheme introduced by the EU):

- requirements: diploma of higher education (successful completion of higher education of at least 3 years) and minimum annual income of EUR 49.995 gross.
- work contract must be min. 1 year.
- the decision on Blue Card is taken within 90 days once the application and all submitted documents were accepted.
- Blue Card is issued for 13 months, renewable for another 13 months and after that for 3 years.

Procedure on work permit and residence permit:

There are separated procedures on work and residence permits. Your employer initiates the procedure on work permit and you are responsible for a long term visa (and residence permit) application. First, your employer has to ask for the labour authorisation and work permit for you at the competent regional authority in Belgium. Once the work permit is arranged, you can apply for a long term visa. After the long-term visa is issued, you can come to Belgium and start working. You must get registered at the municipal authority of your residence within 8 days upon arrival and apply for the **residence permit**.

Where to apply for visa?

There is no Belgian diplomatic mission in Georgia.

For a **long term visa** (over 3 months) Georgian citizens can apply at [Visa Application Centre](#)

Mahatma Gandhi Caddesi, No 40,
Gaziosmanpasa-Ankara, **Turkey**

Visa applications are handled by the company IKS (<http://www.iks.com/>). It is not necessary to come in person to Ankara as visa applications/visa can be submitted/delivered by post.

What documents are required for visa?

- National passport valid for at least 12 months, in which a visa can be affixed.
- 2 visa application forms duly completed, signed and attached with 2 recent passport photos.
- Original valid type B work permit.
- An extract from your criminal record issued no later than 6 months prior the application date and covering the past year.
- A medical certificate filled out by a doctor affiliated with the Belgian embassy (you can ask for the contact details by phone in the Visa Application Centre in Ankara) and issued no later than 6 months prior the application date (medical certificate is not required if it was enclosed already to the work permit application);

Documents issued abroad in a language other than Dutch, English, French or German must be translated by an authorized interpreter.

What are the application fees?

The total costs to obtain a long-term visa is approx. EUR 275: EUR 180 (for visa) + EUR 20 (IKS service fee) + approx. EUR 75 for delivering the visa from Turkey to Georgia. The residence permit fee varies between EUR 20-30.

What is the validity of visa, work and residence permits?

The validity of a long term visa is usually 6 months. The residence permit is issued with the validity of 30 days beyond the validity of the work permit. The validity of the work permit is usually 1 year. There are 2 extensions possible for maximum 4 years each (8 years in total).